

## Case 3420

### *Buettneria* Case, 1922 (Amphibia): proposed conservation

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the name of the Triassic amphibian genus *Buettneria* Case, 1922, which is a junior homonym of *Buettneria* Karsch, 1888, the generic name of an extant orthopteran insect. Because the name of the amphibian has been frequently and widely used, whereas that of the insect is very little used, the suppression of *Buettneria* Karsch, 1888 is proposed.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Orthoptera; Amphibia; *Buettneria*; *Stenacrop-  
teryx*; *Buettneria perfecta*; Central Africa; West Africa; West Texas; Triassic;  
amphibian; cricket.

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1. Karsch (1888, p. 444) introduced the generic name *Büttneria* (type and only named species *B. maculiceps* Karsch, 1888) for an orthopteran insect from Congo (Brazzaville) in Central/West Africa.

2. Case (1922, p. 13) introduced the generic name *Buettneria* (type species by monotypy *B. perfecta* Case, 1922 (p. 13) for a Triassic amphibian from West Texas, USA.

3. Ragge (1962, p. 11) emended Karsch's generic name *Büttneria* to *Buettneria*. This is a justified emendation (Article 32.5.2.1 of the Code—names published before 1985 and based on German words). *Buettneria* Karsch, 1888 is a senior homonym of *Buettneria* Case, 1922.

4. Mueller (2007, p. 225) brought this homonymy to the attention of vertebrate palaeontologists and concluded that *Buettneria* Case, 1922 needed to be replaced by 'the oldest available generic synonym for *Buettneria* based on diagnostic material,' which is *Koskoninodon* Branson & Mehl, 1929.

5. Mueller's (2007) conclusion applies strict priority but ignores the fact that *Buettneria* Karsch, 1888 is a virtual nomen oblitum, whereas *Buettneria* Case, 1922 is a generic name long and widely used in the technical and non-technical literature.

6. We were able to find only four examples of usage of the name *Buettneria* Karsch, 1888 since the time it was established: Kirby (1906), Griffini (1908) and Ragge (1962, 1968). Other than Ragge (1962), these are mere listings of the generic name in compendia of orthopteran taxa, so they should not be used to determine usage (Article 23.9.6 of the Code). Thus there is only one usage of *Buettneria* Karsch, 1888 relevant to Article 23.9 of the Code (Reversal of Precedence) – Ragge (1962), 45 years ago.

7. In contrast, *Buettneria* Case, 1922 is a widely-used name in palaeontology, appearing in many articles, monographs and textbooks (see, for example, Colbert & Imbrie, 1956; Romer, 1966; Hunt, 1993; Schoch & Milner, 2000 and references cited therein). This is because the name has been frequently applied to a common Late Triassic amphibian from North America with close relatives or possible records in Europe, Africa, Madagascar and India. We have provided the Commission Secretariat with a sample list of 75 published usages of *Buettneria* Case, 1922, by more than 45 authors in the 75 year interval 1922–2007; many more can be compiled. *Buettneria* Case, 1922 thus meets the conditions of Article 23.9.1.2.

8. We also note that Karsch (1896, p. 339) introduced the new generic and specific name *Stenacropteryx eburneiguttata* for a West African cricket, and Ragge (1962, p. 12) considered this name to be a junior subjective synonym of *Buettneria maculiceps* Karsch, 1888. Thus, in the event of suppression of the name *Buettneria* Karsch, 1888, the name *Stenacropteryx* Karsch, 1896 is available for this genus.

9. Therefore, in the interests of stability of nomenclature, we believe that suppression of the little used name *Buettneria* Karsch, 1888 is advisable. We consider that continued use of the older homonym threatens the stability and universality of nomenclature and thus will cause confusion. In accordance with Article 23.9.3 of the Code, we suggest that the name *Buettneria* Karsch, 1888 be suppressed.

10. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the generic name *Buettneria* Karsch, 1888 and all uses of this name for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Buettneria* Case, 1922 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Buettneria perfecta* Case, 1922;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *perfecta* Case, 1922, as published in the binomen *Buettneria perfecta* (specific name of the type species of *Buettneria* Case, 1922);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Buettneria* Karsch, 1888, as suppressed in (1) above.

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